

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7374

BILL NUMBER: SB 238

NOTE PREPARED: Feb 20, 2009

BILL AMENDED: Feb 19, 2009

SUBJECT: Crimes Against Animals.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Merritt

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: CR Adopted - 1st House

FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
X DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: (Amended) The bill provides that a person neglects an animal for purposes of the animal cruelty statute if the person restrains the animal in a manner that causes the animal to suffer: (1) serious permanent disfigurement; (2) serious temporary disfigurement; (3) permanent or protracted loss or impairment of the function of a bodily part or organ; or (4) a fracture.

Effective Date: July 1, 2009.

Explanation of State Expenditures:

Explanation of State Revenues: There are no data to indicate how many more offenders may be convicted of cruelty to an animal, a Class B misdemeanor, if the elements of the crime include restraining an animal in a manner that physically harms the animal.

If additional court cases occur and fines are collected, revenue to both the Common School Fund and the state General Fund would increase. The maximum fine for a Class B misdemeanor is \$1,000. Criminal fines are deposited in the Common School Fund.

If the case is filed in a circuit, superior, or county court, 70% of the \$120 court fee that is assessed and collected when a guilty verdict is entered would be deposited in the state General Fund. If the case is filed in a city or town court, 55% of the fee would be deposited in the state General Fund. In addition, some or all of the document storage fee (\$2), automated record keeping fee (\$7), judicial salaries fee (\$18), public defense administration fee (\$3), court administration fee (\$5), judicial insurance adjustment fee (\$1), and the DNA

sample processing fee (\$1) are deposited into the state General Fund.

Explanation of Local Expenditures: A Class B misdemeanor is punishable by up to 180 days in jail. The average daily cost to incarcerate a prisoner in a county jail is approximately \$44.

Explanation of Local Revenues: If additional court actions occur and a guilty verdict is entered, local governments would receive revenue from the following sources: The county general fund would receive 27% of the \$120 court fee that is assessed in a court of record. Cities and towns maintaining a law enforcement agency that prosecutes at least 50% of its ordinance violations in a court of record may receive 3% of court fees. If the case is filed in a city or town court, 20% of the court fee would be deposited in the county general fund and 25% would be deposited in the city or town general fund. In addition, several additional fees may be collected at the discretion of the judge and depending upon the particular type of criminal case.

State Agencies Affected:

Local Agencies Affected: Trial courts, local law enforcement agencies.

Information Sources:

Fiscal Analyst: Mark Goodpaster, 317-232-9852.